

REMARKS

Claims 9-24 are pending after amendment.

**Drawing Amendment**

Figure 4 is amended to state that the “Prior Art” is depicted. The objection to the drawing is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

**Amendment to Title**

The title is amended to be more descriptive in response to the objection of the Examiner.

**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1-8 are cancelled and replaced by new claims 9-24. New claim 9 combines the limitations of cancelled claims 1-3. New claim 10 corresponds to cancelled claim 4. New claims 11 and 12 correspond to cancelled claim 5. New claims 13-16 correspond to cancelled claim 6. New claims 17-20 correspond to cancelled claim 7. New claims 21-24 correspond to cancelled claim 8. No new matter is added by this amendment.

**Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)**

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneyama et al ‘148 in view of Arakawa ‘925. This rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner takes the position that Kaneyama discloses an optical laminate comprising a cholesteric liquid crystal layer, and a quarter-wave plate laminated on the cholesteric liquid crystal layer, and wherein the quarter-wave plate should have minimal variation in thickness. The Examiner acknowledges that the reference does not expressly disclose wherein the quarter-wave plate has a configuration consisting of the layer A, the layer B, and the layer A, or wherein the layer A and the layer B have the same molecular chain orientation.

The additionally-cited Arakawa reference is relied upon to cure the deficiencies of the Kaneyama reference in relation to claims 1-6.

In response, the Examiner fails to point out how the limitation “quarter-wave plate having a variation in thickness of 5% or less” is taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

The Examiner also fails to point out how the cited prior art teaches or suggests the use of an alicyclic structure-containing polymer resin having a content of a resin component with a molecular weight of 2000 or less of 5 wt.% or less as the material having a positive intrinsic birefringence value to obtain the quarter-wave plate having a variation in thickness of 5% or less.

The Examiner points out that “Arakawa further discloses wherein the material having a positive intrinsic birefringence value (52) is an alicyclic structure-containing polymer resin having a content of a resin component with a molecular weight of 2000 or less of 5 wt.% or less ([0043] )” in the Office Action at page 4, paragraph 10.

However, applicants dispute this characterization of the teachings of the reference, and believe that the newly-presented claims are neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art, taken either singly or together.

In an attempt to more clearly define over the claimed invention, claims 1-8 are replaced with new claims 9-24 as noted above. It is believed that new claim 9, which combines the limitations of cancelled claims 1-3, now clearly defines over the cited prior art, taken either singly or together. The remaining claims 10-24, being dependent upon claim 9, are additionally believed to define over the cited prior art.

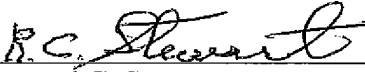
The rejection is thus believed to be without basis and should be withdrawn.


The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same earnestly is solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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RCS/JWH/eb

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Attachment: Amended Figure 4